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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01790 161331Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O 161231Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3453

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1790

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, SY
SUBJ: SYRIAN INTENTIONS RE UNDOF

REFS: A. STATE 113079 (TEL AVIV 2969); B. DAMASCUS 1600

1. SYRIAN MEDIA HAS CONTINUED PRESERVE SILENCE REPORTED DAMASCUS 1600 RE UNDOF RENEWAL.

2. AS INSTRUCTED I HAVE NOT INITIATED ANY DISCUSSIONS THIS ISSUE WITH SARG OFFICIALS. ONLY RANKING OFFICIAL TO MENTION QUESTION TO ME HAS BEEN PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI WHO A FEW DAYS AGO COMMENTED THAT HE ASSUMED USG REALIZED SYRIA HAD TAKEN NO DECISION AND THAT STATEMENT BY BAATHI NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBER SUKKARIYAH HAD NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED. DAOUDI ADDED HE UNSURE OF FINAL RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SARG AND UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL GUYER. (GUYER'S VISIT WENT UNPUBLICIZED HERE. WE UNDERSTAND HE LEFT DAMASCUS O/A MAY 10.)

3. WITH LESS THAN TWO WEEKS REMAINING BEFORE EXPIRATION OF MANDATE, SARG'S CONTINUED SILENCE IS UNDERSTANDABLE SOURCE OF CONCERN TO EVERYONE AND WE, TOO, WOULD HOPE THERE WOULD NOT BE A REPEAT OF THE NOVEMBER TENSIONS ON GOLAN. AS STATED DAMASCUS 1600 WE BELIEVE SYRIA INTENDS RENEW. FURTHERMORE WE SUSPECT ACTUAL DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN AND SYRIANS HAVE JUST BEEN LOOKING FOR THE BEST OCCASION FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT. SADAT'S
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EIGHTEEN HOUR VISIT HERE BEGINNING MAY 17 MAY PROVIDE

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THAT OCCASION.

4. RE SYRIA'S OWN STATE OF MILITARY READINESS, WE CAN
CONFIRM THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME HEIGHTENED ALERT ON PART
OF SYRIAN MILITARY; HOWEVER, WE CANNOT DETERMINE ITS
FULL SCOPE. WE ARE FAIRLY CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT
FOCUS OF THIS ACTIVITY IS NORTH AND EAST OF DAMASCUS IN
CONNECTION WITH SYRIA'S CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH IRAQ. DATT
TRAVELED TO KUNEITRA MAY 13 AND SAW NOTHING UNUSUAL.
SYRIANS WERE CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THEIR DEFENSE WORKS.
WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SEVERAL UN OFFICERS
DURING RECENT DAYS AND NONE HAVE REGISTERED CONCERN. WE HOPE
HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES
IN NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION
AS CLOSELY AS OUR CAPABILITIES ALLOW.

5. DEPT PLEASE PASS AMMAN, CAIRO, TEL AVIV.
MURPHY

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